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DAILY NEWS DIGEST BY BFSI BOARD, ICAI

April 11, 2022

• FM Sitharaman to meet PSBs' heads on Apr 23 to nudge them for credit expansion: Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman is scheduled to meet heads of public sector banks (PSBs) on April 23 to review performance of the lenders and progress made by them on various schemes launched by the government for revival of the economy battered by the pandemic. This is the first full review meeting after presentation of Budget 2022-23. Banks would be urged to sanction loans for productive sectors to accelerate revival of the economy, sources said. According to sources, there would be a comprehensive review of various segments and progress in government schemes including Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS).

https://www.business-standard.com/article/finance/fm-to-meet-psbs-heads-on-apr-23-to-nudge-them-for-credit-expansion-

122041000357_1.html#:~:text=Finance%20Minister%20Nirmala%20Sitharaman%20is,economy%20battered%20 by%20the%20pandemic.

• Ruchi Soya repays entire loans of Rs 2,925 crore: Edible oil major Ruchi Soya on Friday said it has repaid Rs 2,925 crore loans to banks and has become a debt-free company. Baba Ramdev's Patanjali Ayurved-led Ruchi Soya has recently raised Rs 4,300 crore through its follow-on public offer, and the part of the proceeds has been utilised to repay the debt. Acharya Balkrishna, MD of Patanjali Ayurved Ltd, tweeted that Ruchi Soya has become debt-free. In its draft red herring prospectus, the company had mentioned that it would repay loan of around Rs 1,950 crore to the lenders, a company spokesperson said. However, the company has decided to repay the entire debt amount of Rs 2,925 crore to its lenders.

https://www.moneycontrol.com/news/business/markets/ruchi-soya-repays-entire-loans-of-rs-2925-crore-8337671.html

• Four of top-10 cos lose over Rs 1 lakh cr in m-cap; TCS, Infy biggest laggards: The combined market valuation of four of the 10 most valued firms tumbled Rs 1,05,848.14 crore last week, with IT majors TCS and Infosys emerging as the biggest laggards. While the market valuation of Reliance Industries, TCS, Infosys and Bajaj Finance declined, HDFC Bank, ICICI Bank, HUL, SBI, HDFC and Bharti Airtel emerged as the gainers with a combined addition of Rs 51,628.12 crore. Among the four firms, the valuation of Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) tumbled the most by Rs 40,640.76 crore to stand at Rs 13,49,037.36 crore. Infosys' market capitalisation (m-cap) tanked Rs 36,703.8 crore to reach Rs 7,63,565.13 crore. The market valuation of Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) eroded by Rs 25,503.68 crore to Rs 17,70,205.42 crore and that of Bajaj Finance dipped by Rs 2,999.9 crore to Rs 4,45,810.84 crore.

 $\frac{https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/markets/stocks/news/four-of-top-10-cos-lose-over-rs-1-lakh-cr-in-m-cap-tcs-infy-biggest-laggards/articleshow/90757343.cms$

• FPIs turn net buyers in April so far; invest Rs 7,707 cr in equities: After a six-month selling spree, foreign investors have turned net buyers in April so far by infusing Rs 7,707 crore in Indian equities as a correction in markets provided them a good buying opportunity. Himanshu Srivastava, Associate Director - Manager Research, Morningstar India, said it would still be slightly premature to call it a change in trend with respect to FPI flows, and hence it will be prudent to watch how the scenario unfolds over the next few weeks or months to get more clarity. According to latest data with the depositories, foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) have made a net investment of Rs 7,707 crore in Indian equities during April 1-8.



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https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/markets/stocks/news/fpis-turn-net-buyers-in-april-so-far-invest-rs-7707-cr-in-equities/articleshow/90757199.cms?from=mdr

• Tata AIA Life Insurance joins hands with CSC for distribution of life insurance in rural areas: Tata AIA Life Insurance has partnered with Common Services Centers under the Ministry of Electronics and IT to engage its network of over 4 lakh village-level entrepreneurs at the last mile for distribution of life insurance plans. "The partnership will allow Tata AIA Life Insurance to augment its reach to around 95 per cent of gram panchayats, building in-roads to make life insurance accessible to the remotest areas," it said in a statement on Saturday. Through its network, CSC will offer the Tata AIA Life POS Smart Income Plus plan that provides the dual advantage of a life cover combined with savings.

https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/money-and-banking/tata-aia-life-insurance-joins-hands-with-csc-for-distribution-of-life-insurance-in-rural-areas/article65305977.ece

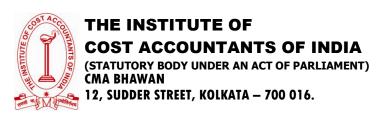
• Level of optimism about loan demand slightly lower in Q1 FY23: Bank Lending Survey: Bankers' were very positive about loan demand from all major sectors during Q1 (April-June) 2022-23, according to the Reserve Bank of India's latest Bank Lending Survey (BLS). However, the level of optimism was somewhat lower than in the previous survey round. Going by net responses (computed as the difference of percentage of banks reporting increase/optimism and those reporting decrease/pessimism in respective parameters), expectation for "loan demand" for all sectors was lower at 46.6 per cent for Q1 FY23 against 51.7 per cent in Q4 (January-March) FY22.

https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/money-and-banking/level-of-optimism-about-loan-demand-slightly-lower-in-q1-fy23-bank-lending-survey/article65308593.ece

- Differences emerge between RCap admin, lenders over resolution process of its arms: Differences have emerged between the lenders and the RBI-appointed administrator of debt-ridden Reliance Capital Ltd (RCL) over the resolution process of the company's different subsidiaries or clusters which are on the block, sources said. As many as 54 bids were received for the resolution of RCL and its multiple subsidiaries as of March 25, which was the last date for submission of Expressions of Interest (EoI). Of those, around 22 EoIs are for RCL as a company, while the rest are for individual or a combination of the company's eight subsidiaries, sources said. https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/money-and-banking/differences-emerge-between-rcap-admin-lenders-over-resolution-process-of-its-arms/article65308710.ece
- Interoperable cardless cash withdrawal at ATMs likely to see takers in millennials, rural population: Contactless payments are set to get another boost with the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) plan to enable cardless cash withdrawals at ATMs. While the facility had gained some traction during the pandemic, players believe that it will now see more usage and adoption, especially from the younger population and in rural areas. "It's another channel or platform for customers to access cash. In the new approach, cash is still withdrawn from ATM machines; the change is instead of physical debit cards, customers can use UPI-based QR code to withdraw cash," Ashish Ahuja, Chief Operating Officer, Fino Payments Bank, said, adding that it will further simplify banking.

https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/money-and-banking/interoperable-cardless-cash-withdrawal-at-atms-likely-to-see-takers-in-millennials-rural-population/article65305990.ece

• Consumer finance major Home Credit India partners with Pine Labs to strengthen retail network: Home Credit India (HCI), a local arm of the international consumer finance provider, has tied-up with Pine Labs, which is focussed on payments and leading merchant commerce platform, to enhance access to its Ujjwal Card's digital EMI-financing options to millions of HCI customers at Pine Labs PoS terminals pan-India. Through this partnership, Home Credit India's lending platform is being integrated to Pine Labs Point of Sales (PoS) on a pan-



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India basis so as provide an omni channel connection for its offerings. This will increase the number of outlets that HCl customers can transact, increase acceptability of Home Credit's Ujjwal EMI card and also increases customer acquisition potential for HCl through Pine Labs, Ankush Khosla, Chief Sales Officer, Home Credit India, told Businessline

https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/money-and-banking/consumer-finance-major-home-credit-india-partners-with-pine-labs-to-strengthen-retail-network/article65308803.ece

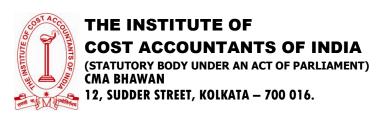
• RBI should increase the interest rate by 1 per cent to achieve zero percent real rate: Uday Kotak: Uday Kotak, CEO and Managing Director of Kotak Mahindra Bank, on Sunday said the interest rate should be increased by 100 basis points if it has to move to zero per cent real rate. "Sharp increase in inflation estimate to 5.7 per cent from 4.5 per cent assuming 100\$ oil. Exit Q4 FY23 estimate 5.1 per cent. Present repo rate at 4 per cent. If India has to move to 0 per cent real rate, that is inflation - interest rate = 0, we need 1 per cent increase of rates. Four rate hikes of a quarter each?" the veteran banker said in a tweet. The six MPC members on Friday unanimously chose to keep the policy repo rate unchanged at 4 per cent even as RBI sharply revised the FY23 inflation projection upwards to 5.7 per cent from 4.5 per cent earlier. The FY23 real GDP growth projection has been cut to 7.2 per cent from 7.8 per cent earlier.

https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/rbi-should-increase-the-interest-rate-by-1-per-cent-to-achieve-zero-percent-real-rate-uday-kotak/article65309162.ece

• Reliance Capital debt resolutions hit a bump as administrator and lenders try to resolve differences: The debt resolution process of Reliance Capital (RCap) has hit a hurdle with differences arising between the RBI-appointed Administrator and the Committee of Creditors over the sale of some of the profit-making subsidiaries of the non-banking finance company. Under the resolution plan, potential bidders have two options to acquire the assets of RCap. They can either submit a bid for the whole of Reliance Capital under option one or bid for different clusters or subsidiaries under the second option. As many as 55 entities including YES Bank, Piramal consortium, Adani Finserve, Brookfield, Bandhan Financial Holdings and Blackstone have submitted an expression of interest to acquire the company. Nearly two dozen players have expressed interest to bid under both options, others want to bid only for selected clusters or subsidiaries such as Reliance General Insurance, Reliance Health Insurance, Reliance Nippon Life Insurance, and Reliance Asset Reconstruction, and Reliance Securities. According to banking sources, differences had cropped up between the Administrator and Committee of Creditors of Reliance Capital over the resolution process for the company's subsidiaries.

 $\frac{https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/money-and-banking/reliance-capital-debt-resolutions-hit-a-bump-as-administrator-and-lenders-try-to-resolve-differences/article65308812.ece$

BharatPe puts behind Grover episode, posts record growth: Putting behind the controversy around its co-founder Ashneer Grover, fintech startup BharatPe has posted record growth in the fiscal year ended March 31 and is on track to break even and list on stock exchanges in the next 18-24 months, its CEO Suhail Sameer said. In an interview with PTI, he said while the board will take a call on what to do with the money allegedly defrauded by Grover, his priority is the firm's employees so that they stay focused and teams remain stable. "Second focus is to keep firing on the business front. From a long term point of view, that's all that will matter for me, for my teams. I am just doubling down on these things," he said. And that focus has paid off well. https://www.moneycontrol.com/news/business/bharatpe-puts-behind-ashneer-grover-episode-posts-record-growth-8340421.html



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